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COORDINATING COMMITTEEELECTROMETERSMEMORANDUM BY THE UNITED KINGDOM DELEGATION

1. Electrometers were before the 1958 Review embargoed by Item 20 in the Atomic Energy list which read:

"Radiation detection instruments and components of the following types, designed or capable of being adapted for detection or measurement of nuclear radiations, such as alpha and beta particles, gamma radiations, neutrons and protons:

(c) Electroscopes and electrometers, including dosimeters (but excluding (1) student types; (11) simple metal lead electroscopes; (111) dosimeters especially designed for use with medical X-ray equipment; and (1V) electrostatic measuring instruments.

2. As a result of the 1958 Review it was agreed that all instruments covered by this description, other than certain specialised dosimeters, should be removed from the list. When agreeing to this amendment it appears to have escaped attention that probably the majority of the electrometers which the Committee agreed should be freed could still be regarded as embargoed under Item 1521 (d), by virtue of Administrative Principle No.3, since the principal component of very many electrometers is a D.C. amplifier of a type specified in Item 1521 (d).

3. The United Kingdom authorities are confident that it was never the intention of the Committee to recapture under another head the electrometers which were freed from the A.E. List in 1958. It may be of assistance to other members of the Committee to know how the matter is being dealt with by the United Kingdom authorities. The principle adopted by the United Kingdom is that electrometers (other than dosimeters) of the type which were formerly covered by A.E. List Item 20 are regarded as free from embargo; in practice this mainly means electrometers using a vibrating condenser. However, the United Kingdom authorities do not regard instruments with a "chopper" type amplifier of the types used on guided missile work and on analogue computers to be freed. Any proposal to export new types of electrometer to Bloc countries will be very carefully examined on their merits, in particular to ensure that they do not contain valuable "know how", and cases of doubt will be brought to the Committee's attention before a final decision is taken.

United Kingdom Delegation,
Paris.

March 9, 1960.

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